

RECORD OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION

- A. Proposed Action:** Western proposes to conduct maintenance on structures 4/1, 4/4, 5/1, 5/3, 5/6, 6/7, 7/2, 7/4, 7/6 & 7/7 of the existing Coolidge - Electrical District 2 #1 115-kV transmission line. This work will consist of replacing ground wires, cross arms or cross braces. Western will access structures using crew trucks, pickup trucks and backhoes along existing access roads. This work is necessary to maintain the safety and reliability of the bulk electrical system.

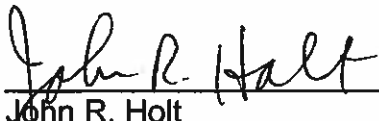
The attached map shows the project areas are situated within Sections 19 & 30 Township 5 South Range 8 East & Section 6 Township 6 South Range 8 East on the Gila and Salt River Meridian, Pinal County, Arizona. Work will be conducted within Western's right of way. The corresponding U.S.G.S. 7.5-minute topographic map is Coolidge, Arizona. This work is planned to begin the week of May 10, 2010.

Categorical Exclusion Applied: 10 CFR, Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B, B4.6: "Additions or modifications to electric power transmission facilities that would not affect the environment beyond the previously developed facility area including, but not limited to, switchyard rock grounding upgrades, secondary containment projects, paving projects, seismic upgrading, tower modifications, changing insulators, and replacement of poles, circuit breakers, conductors, transformers, and crossarms."

B. Regulatory Requirements in 10 CFR 1021.410 (b):

1. The proposed action fits within a class of actions that is listed in Appendix B to Subpart D.
 - a. The proposed action was reviewed for the requirements of the Endangered Species Act, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the National Historic Preservation Act, and all applicable Department of Energy Orders. This action falls under the Programmatic Agreement for routine maintenance activities, type II activities.
 - b. The proposed action does not require the siting, construction, or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities.
 - c. The proposed action does not disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that pre-exist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled and unpermitted releases.

- d. The proposed action was reviewed and surveyed for impacts to cultural and sensitive biological resources. Cultural and sensitive biological resources have been determined to not be affected.
 2. There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal; and
 3. The proposal is not "connected" to other actions with potentially significant impacts, is not related to other proposed actions with cumulatively significant impacts, and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211.
- C. **Determination:** Based on my review of information conveyed to me and in my possession (or attached) concerning the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (as authorized under DOE Order 451.1A), I have determined that the proposed action fits within the specified class of actions, the other regulatory requirements set forth above are met, and the proposed action is hereby categorically excluded from further NEPA review.
- D. **Special Conditions:**
1. **Avoid blading, making tire-track ruts and ground-disturbing activities in the area from Structure 4/4 to a point 500 feet south. If possible, set up equipment on the north side of Structure 4/4.**
 2. **Avoid blading, making tire-track ruts and ground-disturbing activities in the area from Structure 5/4 to 5/6. If possible, set up equipment on the south side of Structure 5/6.**



John R. Holt
NEPA Compliance Officer



Date